

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF STUDENTS**

Every student will be examined once in each school year for screening in sight or hearing and for other physical problems as provided in the laws. A record of the results will be kept by the school nurse.

The school health program should encourage the performance of required physical examinations of every student by the student's own physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, whenever possible. Documentation of physical examinations by primary care physician will occur upon entering school and at intervals of either three or four years thereafter (i.e., upon admittance to the fourth, seventh and tenth grades). Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are expected to provide documentation of the physical examination to the school nurse either prior to or upon a student's entry to school. The results of examinations will be a basis for determining what corrective measures or modifications of school activities, if any, should be recommended. A record of all examinations and recommendations will be kept.

Every candidate for a school athletic team will provide a consent form that has been signed by the student's parent/ guardian/caregiver prior to being able to participate on an athletic team and the student also will be required, on an annual basis, to have a physical examination prior to participating on a school athletic team and with the written consent of the student's parent/guardian/caregiver will be thoroughly examined to determine physical fitness. The school physician will examine athletes, except when a family wishes to have the examination done by their own doctor at their own expense. The school health program also encourages that these physical examinations be performed by the student's own physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, whenever possible. The physical examination is only valid for thirteen months and must be renewed in order for a student to be able to participate on an athletic team. A written report stating the fitness of the student to participate signed by the physician will be sent to the Director of Athletics or designee.

The school health program encourages students to be examined by their own primary care physician who knows the student's health history and the school health services can assist the parents/guardians/caregivers in finding a primary care physician for a student, if a student does not already have a primary care physician. In the event of an emergency, and when it has been determined to be medically necessary, the school physician, upon referral from a school nurse, may examine a student and also may examine a school employee when, in their opinion, such examination is necessary to protect the student's health. Except in an emergency, the school physician will not prescribe for or treat any student.

Whenever the school nurse finds a child suffering from any disease or medical problem, the situation will be reported to the parent/guardian/caregiver in writing or by telephone. A copy of the written report and summary of any verbal report will be filed at the school in the school nurse's office.

The school nurse will make a monthly report to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health of the number of students examined; the number excluded; and the number recommended for treatment or special adjustment of work and such information will be provided to the Superintendent or designee upon request. Additionally, all exclusions of students are promptly

reported to the school principal and the Superintendent or designee. In all cases of exclusion or recommendation, the causes will be included in the report.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.c. 71, §§53, 54, 56, &57

*Adopted: May 15, 2018*